

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC HERALD

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MERLIN'S MIXTURE

Journalistic jugglery.

The interest excited in the forthcoming attempt to be made by the Rev. C. M. Sheldon to publish a "Christian" newspaper for a week is a virtual acknowledgment of the existence of un-Christian conditions in social life.

On every hand doubt is being expressed as to the possibility of running a Christian paper in a so-called Christian country. The press derides the idea as absurd. Even Sheldon's fellow-preachers declare in many cases that the thing can't be done profitably, if at all.

Sheldon has tackled a tough proposition. On the one hand he will have the well-nigh impossible task of interpreting and applying the ideas of the Nazarene teacher, and on the other hand he will have to dissect and analyze the entire structure of modern trade.

If he does both clear-sightedly and conscientiously, he will find that Christian principles of religion and civilized principles of trade are diametrically opposed to each other. Christ denounced usury and profits, while these are the backbone of modern business.

Sheldon must cut loose from business, if he be honest, and must cut loose from Christianity, if he be successful. Poor chap!

* * *

Christ or Christian.

This journalistic juggling, for such it will undoubtedly be, will at least have the effect of showing the antagonism between the religion of an ancient Christ and the business of a modern Christian.

To my mind there is about as much resemblance between the Christ of Galilee and the Christian of America as there is between a sparkling mountain spring and a pool of ditch water.

When I read the sermon on the mount and then think of the pious Rockefeller, the Sunday school enthusiast Wanamaker, the devout McKinley and the church-going Russell Sage, I see a gulf that even 2,000 years of devolution can hardly account for.

When I contrast the sturdy and outspoken carpenter of Nazareth, flinging anathemas at the oppressing rich, driving out the stock brokers from the temple, boldly championing the rights of the common people, to whose class he belonged, with the fawning, mammon-mastered ministry and the conservative, cringing and cursedly contented church of today, I feel certain that Jesus has petitioned the authorities of heaven to change his name.

* * *

Exceptions.

There are exceptions to the above. There are cases, and not a few, where there are Christian men and women who display the conscientiousness and courage of the Teacher whose religion they practice. But these exceptions simply prove the rule.

For instance, in the last issue of an Illinois Unitarian paper appears the following: "Socialism is one of the studies in the Chautauqua course this year, and those who are so fortunate as to be reading this course are finding that Socialism is quite a different thing and a much better thing than is generally supposed, or than partisan definitions make it. True Socialism is but a modern phrase for an endeavor to apply the religion of Jesus to self-government. When Socialism prevails, public water works, electric lights, etc., will be owned or controlled by the city or the commonwealth for the benefit of the people, instead of by corporations for the profit of a greedy few."

Even in the darkness of an ecclesiastical night there are here and there Socialist lanterns that are shedding their light.

* * *

The art of theft.

A few days ago a man chanced to attend a mission service in Boston. He was touched by the appeal of the missionary, and, going forward, publicly confessed his sins as a pickpocket and expressed a desire to live an honest life. A policeman was hurriedly notified and the man was arrested as a self-confessed thief.

And yet I notice by this morning's paper that the Standard Oil company has had the temerity to declare a quarterly dividend of 20 per cent! Though lacking in contrition, it has confessed its sins as a commercial pickpocket, and no policeman, parson or president dares dispute with it concerning its freedom.

What a pitiful system of justice it is that condemns crime by retail and condones it by wholesale. We punish the repentant pickpocket and allow the arrogant thieves of monopoly to pursue their criminal vocation unmolested.

What would you think if the government permitted a band of licensed thieves to enter and pillage your houses?

And why, in the name of common sense, do you, as part of the government, allow this gang of Standard Oil thieves to pick your pocket of 5 cents every time you pay for a gallon of oil?

It should be called the Standard Oil come-penny. The penny—your penny—always comes.

* * *

A Kentucky augury.

The political happenings in Kentucky the past few days do not tend to make a believer in democratic government very optimistic. The disgraceful scenes enacted at Frankfort will leave a lasting blot on the historical feature of the state and nation.

It is a dark augury of times to come. Whether or not Goebel was murdered in accordance with a political plot, which many are rightly fain to believe, certain it is that the Republican party used every method, fair and foul, to defeat its opponents and to prevent adjustment by legal methods.

We are accustomed to hear of the militia presenting a steel front against workingmen who demand their rights, but it is a new thing under the American sun to see troops threatening to shoot down representatives who seek to exercise the high prerogative of their office.

If that is done now, between Republican and Democrat, what won't the money power do when it is opposed and driven to its last trench by the Socialist party?

I tell you, men, that unless we hasten with our socialist propaganda and put our every energy into the work, the time shall slip by when a peaceful, legal settlement of social conditions may be effected.

* After that, the deluge!

* * *

Capitalism's Gravediggers.

The small band of Socialists who are exerting every energy to inaugurate Socialism in reality only a fractional part of the forces tending in the same direction.

Every capitalist, every trust-maker, every industrial exploiter, is doing his part toward the destruction of the old and the upbuilding of the new system.

Here is an acrostic catalogue of capitalism's real grave-diggers:

Gould
Rockefeller
Astor
Vanderbilt

* Every other such.

They are in reality doing the dirty work preparatory to the inauguration of Socialism. And their work is almost done. Get ready for yours. Merlin.

* YOUNG JOHN SWINTON

It was twenty years ago, or somewhere about that time, that I sat expectantly in a well-filled, cheerful hall, in Providence, R. I., waiting for the appearance of John Swinton, who was to address an assembly of workingmen.

I had been a careful reader of John Swinton's paper for a long time, but had never thus far chanced to see the editor of this same plucky labor sheet. It follows, of course, that I was desirous of doing so, and the occasion referred to greatly gratified me.

If the typographer and photographer report truly, I may say that the John Swinton of today is "ye editor of ye golden time." The same jovial mien, the same searching gaze, poised, proclamation air, and prond-to-be-protest-er attitude—this is the John Swinton familiar to New York and its all-the-world suburbs.

And what is he saying now? Oh, that men who burrow under ground for coal for "us folks" above ground ought to get \$10 and \$12 per day; saying that large wages should be paid certain of my kind for the privilege of dying for you and me. Doughty old warrior! With what infinite satisfaction I read between the lines the fine sarcasm of the man who has given the best of his life and means for the "under dog," and who promises us a "leader" when the masses are ready to march!

Could anything be more adroitly done than this shot thrown to the thugs of our cannibal conspiracy called civilization?

Indeed may we all rejoice that the brave old dissenter still sits at his desk, as of yore, prodding the pirates of commercialism with a glee which may be felt across the continent.

We who live on the Pacific slope, on the very rim, as it were, of the Carbonado horror, take off our hats to the champion satirist of the Atlantic seaboard, and wish that he may live a hundred years and a day.

Rev. Geneva Lake.
Olympia, Wash.

One of the "reforms" to be instituted during the Rev. Charles Sheldon's editorship of the Topeka Capital is a big raise in the price of the paper to subscribers from 12 cents to 25 cents for the week. This may be in accord with Sheldon's idea of what Jesus would do, but it gives the whole plan an ugly money-making look.

OUR LATEST MEMBER IS A CAPITALIST

wrong use during the past or at present, gives a wrong color to our work of pointing out the evolution of society. It may be that capitalism will appropriate the word "socialism" some day, as it is in the habit of doing with all good names. First it was ignored, now it is respected. When it is feared, as a possible successor, will be the time when capitalism may try to swallow it. But our work will never stop for the "want of a name."

Horseshoe Joe.

"BE CONTENT"

Said the parson: "Be content; Pay your tithe-dues, pay your rent; They that earthly things despise Shall have mansions in the skies; Though your back with toil be bent," Said the parson, "be content."

We don't know just how it happened, but we have a new member at the lodge—one who don't exactly belong to our crowd, and yet he wants to be counted in. Jay, as we call him, is a young fellow from the east and has just started a new furniture factory with \$200,000 capital. He is also heir to three or four millions.

How he ever got into our lodge is beyond the understanding of all the old members, but we think he was caught by some of our reform ideas before he found out what they were.

Anyhow he takes to some of it, particularly what the carpenter has to say on Socialism, though he has some of the inherited ideas of his class that lands, money, tools and incomes may, by right, be inherited by men of one class if they come by them "honestly." At least, that's what he thought when he started with us. He said:

"Let's unite all these reform ideas and draw up a plan that will satisfy all classes. Not too radical, you know, but something that will lift the burden and give a chance for honest competition."

Since our last meeting he sees that such a plan is "in the air," but that anything short of Socialism is contrary to the natural evolution of industrial society; of the trusts and combines and the development of machinery; of educational systems and the natural desires of men who study these things.

"But don't be too hard on my class," said Jay. "I know you don't want charity, but still you must give us credit for the \$63,000,000 donations to educational institutions last year in this country as against \$16,000,000 to charity and churches. Only \$3,000,000 went to churches, while \$5,000,000 was donated to libraries and \$2,500,000 to art galleries and museums."

"Yes," I replied, "and though college trustees try to stop studies in social reform and turn down professors in economics, it is not always the fault of those who donate the money. As for charity, it simply gives back to the producer a fraction of a per cent of what belongs to him, and helps to keep up the system a little longer by covering up the worst places."

"Just as a woman thinks her complexion is all right if she can cover the freckles with paint," said Jay.

"As for libraries and art galleries," I continued, "those are much better and are along the line of education, yet they reach only the middle class and wealthy. The working poor never get food, clothes, or any other benefit from them. They have no time to read or study art, and very few in a large city like Chicago, Philadelphia or New York can even tell where such public buildings are located."

"How about church donations?" asked Jay.

"These may, in some cases, be intended as donations to spread Christianity, but the actual result is a donation to accumulate church property. Of course, in order to hold such property, the organization must uphold capitalism and the government, for under no other system could their properties be secure. The government in turn gives them special protection and requires no tax to be paid on the immense holdings they have gathered about them.

At the present time a high church official is selecting \$20,000,000 worth of church property in the Philippines which he will require the president of the United States to give a clear title to, and that sum is just equal to the amount paid to Spain for the islands. Can there be any doubt which side the church property organizations will take, and are taking, in the evolution from capitalism to Socialism?"

"Well, I kind of think your way myself," said our new member. "I have observed that for centuries the mouthpieces of the church properties have been calling on the people in His name to have their souls saved. And while a great many have answered the call, it still has been very unsatisfactory. Now, a few who have seen a vision of a better system of society on this earth, though a somewhat clouded vision, are again calling in His name to rally round Him and save not only their souls but their lives, and a living. They altogether forget, or never knew, that each man has some power of his own, quite sufficient to overturn capitalism as soon as he finds out that it needs overturning. And then, as you say, all the interests of propertyholders, including church organizations, are in upholding the present system."

"You're all right," I replied. "There may not be 'much in a name,' but there is sometimes a great deal of confusion in a name and in the tyranny of custom that surrounds it. Otherwise there is not much in a name, and we must break away from any name that, through its

LEGITIMATE FRUIT OF CAPITALISTIC POLITICS

The following press dispatch furnishes a bit of tragic comedy:

FRUIT OF CAPITALIST POLITICS

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 4.—Gov. Roosevelt said today, regarding the death of Gov. Goebel:

"It is to be regretted that such acts of violence can take place in this country, but at the same time our sympathy must be tempered by the realization that the dead politician himself established a violent and equally fatal precedent. If further bloodshed is to continue, it must be at the doors of those who conspired to accomplish by force what they failed to accomplish by fraud during the state election. Gov. Taylor is entitled to the heartfelt support of every decent citizen in the United States in his effort to establish the fact that the will of the people expressed at the polls is not to be thwarted by shrouds and lawlessness."

We can fancy the serious, sober and solemn mien of the eminent rough rider as he delivered himself of this rare specimen of moral mosaics. Of course we have no part in the capitalist politics of Kentucky which had its tragic culmination in the assassination of Goebel, but the claim that Taylor—whose chief backer has been and is the utterly rotten and blood-smeared Louisville & Nashville Railroad company, for forty years notorious as a debaucher of politics and grinder of labor—is "entitled to the heartiest support of every decent citizen of the United States," is, in the presence of the horrifying facts, so ghastly and revoltingly ridiculous as to excite the wonder that even a Roosevelt could be capable of such an exhibition of asinity and mendacity.

The truth is that, deplorable as is the political situation in Kentucky, it is not a whit worse than in New York, under the rough rider's very nose, where Platt, the governor's political adviser, and Croker and their cohorts play the same rotten game of capitalist politics, but lack only, when quarreling over the spoils, the Kentucky courage to shoot it out.

There is no bloodshed in New York. The body politic is so rotten under capitalist misrule that blood will not flow—only pus oozes.

The Kentucky situation is pregnant with significance from the Socialist standpoint. It indicates merrily the breaking down of the capitalist system. It is the politics of private property that is lashing itself out of existence. For years corrupt practices prevailed and all the capitalist parties engaged in it, and today the crop that has been sown to the wind is being reaped in the whirlwind.

Socialists alone can contemplate the picture with equanimity. The scenes that are being enacted in Kentucky indicate the Socialist conception of capitalist politics, whether Republican or Democratic. It is the strife born of the spoils of private property. It appeals to the basest and fiercest passions in human nature, and men naturally brave and noble thirst for vengeance that is appeased only with the blood of their fellow-men.

In all seriousness the question is being asked, "What can be done to purify our politics?" There is but one answer: Abolish the capitalist system of private property. As long as this prevails, politics will be corrupt, society will be demoralized and the world at large will continue a hell of horrors.

To the working class of Kentucky, as elsewhere, we make the appeal to cut loose once and forever from the capitalist parties, of whatever name; to abandon the sinking and stinking ship of capitalist corruption, and proclaim their manhood by joining the Socialist revolutionary movement, composed of men who are conscious of their class interests and who propose to achieve economic freedom and social equality by voting their class into power, and, after seizing the reins of government, taking possession of all the sources and means of wealth production and having every department operated co-operatively by and for the whole people.

Look at Kentucky, then vote for Socialism and keep on voting for it without a flicker till we get it, and it will come sooner than you expect.

Jacksonville, Fla. Eugene V. Debs.

Eugene V. Debs is not only propounding Socialist principles as no other single man has ever done in this country, but representative union men of the south declare that his work tells more effectively in strengthening the labor organizations than the combined efforts of all the regular organizers. Wherever he goes in the south his lectures are under the direct auspices of the central organizations. The Jacksonville Evening News regrets that the city had no public place of meeting large enough for the occasion of Comrade Debs' visit.

The convention of the Socialist Labor party at Rochester, before adjourning, nominated for president Job Harriman of California; for vice president, Max S. Hayes of Ohio.

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CHICAGO, SATURDAY, FEB. 17, 1900.



FRANKLIN MAC VEAGH'S ESSAY

One day last week, before the Chicago Women's club, a leading merchant of this city, Mr. Franklin MacVeagh, delivered himself of a ponderous essay, incubated during his leisure hours, on "The Responsibilities of Wealth," and told how society should guide the wealthy. As a contradictory, apologetic and half-hearted defense of his class, Mr. MacVeagh's essay is worthy of notice.

At the outside, Mr. MacVeagh said the source of wealth—that is, "the freedom, energy and enterprise of the individual—must be preserved."

Socialists say that the labor, docility and slavery of the working class is the source of wealth; that all the learned talk about "freedom, energy and enterprise of the individual" is just so much cheap clap-trap, and that all of these attributes—enterprise, energy and freedom—are positively destroyed by a system which he said, further along in his address, "does not create classes."

Mr. MacVeagh said: "It seems to me we shall find some way to cure the excesses of democracy," and this he expects to do by still preserving private capital and controlling it by retaining a government from which the soul of democracy has been eliminated.

Socialists say that the only cure for the excesses of wealth is a purer democracy, based upon the social ownership and administration of industry.

Mr. MacVeagh thinks Socialism would not stand for the individual and that his democracy would. That is because he does not understand Socialism. His democracy is clearly behind the times, since it is not even aware of the fact that industrial evolution has created classes in this country, and is already defeated by the existence of classes.

Mr. MacVeagh said, "Men are politically free," but the struggle now on in Kentucky emphatically negatives his proposition.

Mr. MacVeagh said, "The right of individual reward is not established," and he comes no nearer suggesting a method by which it can be established than this—the inspection and control of capitalistic corporations by a capitalistic government.

Socialists say that the right measure of individual reward between one class in possession of the means of production and another class separated from these means is an impossibility.

Mr. MacVeagh said, "Wealth is poorer without altruism than poverty with altruism." This is the modernized version of "Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Finally, Mr. MacVeagh said: "Neither wealth nor poverty, neither labor nor idleness, will or can create classes in any real or important sense in this nation. Classes would defeat democracy, and democracy is in no danger of defeat in America."

As a matter of fact, the sort of democracy for which Mr. MacVeagh pleads has already suffered defeat in America. Scarcely any really sane man doubts it, and it is secretly admitted by plenty of men identified with the political party to which Mr. MacVeagh is supposed to belong. So desperate have such men become that it is no uncommon thing to hear them talk of a violent revolution. It is quite remarkable that in recent discussions of this all-inclusive question of labor so many who contribute to it should find it necessary to deny that we have classes and a class struggle in America. To the Socialist it constitutes strong presumptive evidence that, in spite of denials, the public is waking up to that fact and becoming conscious of the truth. For it is true that we have classes; it is a fact that we are in a class struggle. The mere possession of wealth, nor the mere fact of poverty, it is true, has not created classes; but the private ownership of the means of life, on the one hand, and the growing consciousness that while such ownership maintains there can be no other condition than poverty for those who are separated from these means, has done this, and the classes are as distinct today in America as in many of the so-called effete monarchies of the old world. The classes are not to be created; they are already here and they are here from necessity—the necessity imposed upon us by the inexorable law of economic evolution.

Against this evolutionary progress Mr. MacVeagh's democracy and Bryanolatry will struggle in vain.

MISSES THE MARK

Private property in natural resources or social wealth has ever been the source of injustice and a menace to public welfare, and the suggestion of Mr. William M. Salter, at the close of Mr. Franklin MacVeagh's address last week on "The Responsibilities of Wealth," that "the great land owners should do much toward filling the public treasures," while it may strike some persons as very wise, would, if carried out, only serve to perpetuate robbery, and is utterly inadequate as a solution of the problem for which it is offered. Under capitalistic mastery of the governing function, what are public treasures filled for, if not to invest the capitalist class with power to exploit the producing class? The public treasures are filled by taxation, and what is the result? Raids by organized capitalists, sometimes bold and aboveboard, at other times subtle and under cover, as the capitalist adventurers see the need for caution in the temper of the people and the occasion for their depredations. The public treasures are full, and a capitalist eustodian of the public funds depletes the full treasury by generously delivering to overworked and underpaid bankers millions of these funds to be used in speculation and stealing the fruits of the people's toil. The treasury is full, and the cormorants of capitalism organize a raid for millions to enable them to build ships and expand their commerce over the seas. The treasury is full, and \$50,000,000 is placed at the disposal of a capitalistic occupant of the white house to carry on a war for no other purpose than enlarging the field of operations of the capitalist class. The treasury is full, and an expensive and unnecessary crusade is organized against a people ten thousand miles away to enlarge the kingdom of God on earth and (quite incidentally, of course) provide more slaves for plutocrats to pluck. The treasury is full, and a horde of expert cracksmen of the capitalist class attacks it with all sorts of jobs and jobbery, and the end is an empty treasury, a plundered people and—a new scheme to fill the treasury again, to be emptied again by the same processes.

All this is perhaps necessary in the passage from capitalist society and government to Socialism; but the higher ethics call aloud for something more than mere filling of the public treasures. They call for abolition of private property in land and capital, the investiture of society as a whole with the possession and complete enjoyment of social wealth. Public welfare is not conserved by private property in a social inheritance.

BILL OF RIGHTS NULLIFIED

The bill of rights of the Massachusetts constitution says that all inhabitants of that state who are entitled to the ballot "have an equal right to elect officers and to be elected." Now it so happens that the Massachusetts bill of rights, which was intended to confer upon all citizens entitled to the ballot an equal right with all other citizens to "elect officers and be elected," has been nullified by the more-patriotic-than-thou Republican party. This has been done by enacting election laws that are hedged about with cunningly devised provisions the operation of which contravenes the bill of rights and destroys the equal right of citizens to elect officers and be elected. This is true not only of Massachusetts, but also of every state in the Union. The old political parties have been equally responsible in restricting the bill of rights of the people by systematic juggling with election laws to deny to anybody any rights whatever except such as they were willing to concede. Thus the provision that any body of citizens entitled to the ballot, instead of enjoying "equal right to elect officers and be elected," shall enjoy the privilege of being put to great expense of labor and money to procure signers to a petition before election, is a political trick never contemplated by the bill of rights and in direct violation of its guarantee.

The bill of rights was not exhausted when the Republican party was born, and the odium of nullifying the right guaranteed to the people rests chiefly upon that party. In Massachusetts this highly moral and patriotic aggregation of capitalist lackeys has gone so far as to annul the right of a respectable body of citizens to have the name by which they wish to be known appear correctly on the official ballot.

The effort which our representative in the Massachusetts legislature, Frederick O. MacCartney, is making to have this injustice righted is, therefore, an attempt to regain in part what has been denied to independent people who do not wear the Republican collar, but is guaranteed them by the state's bill of rights which the party of great pretenses has flagrantly violated.

WHAT IS A DEMOCRAT?

A Chicago paper raised the question the other day as to what constitutes a "Democrat." That the question is pertinent at this time cannot be denied, for even partisans of any particular name had a wider range of conflicting opinion or an entire absence of opinion than the members of the so-called Democratic party, we have yet to hear from them.

The paper in question finds that leading Democrats are in direct opposition to what has been generally accepted as Democratic doctrine.

For example, Congressman Sibley declares himself for imperialism, for protection, against free silver, and is a Democrat.

Senator Clark is for imperialism, for protection and for free silver, and is a Democrat.

Senator Morgan is for imperialism, for free silver, against protection, and is a Democrat. And there are others equally as prominent who favor Republican policies and are Democrats, while the rank and file of the Democratic party is quite as mixed in its politics as the public men named.

Congressman Sibley's case is a remarkable illustration of evolution in individual polities. In 1896 he was prominent as a free-silver advocate and favorably regarded as a possible candidate for the presidency. Many "radical populists" at St. Louis who assisted in the work of killing the People's party in the interest of Bryanism boldly asserted that Sibley was a "good Socialist." The editor of The Herald has a distinct recollection of a group of Kansas "radicals" in the Lindell hotel parlors hysterically proclaiming the virtues and the "genuine Socialism" of Joe Sibley. The truth is that Democrats are without principles; they are "any old thing" to get and to hold the public offices. There is so wide a range of opinion and no opinion among them that a definition is impossible.

JONES ON COLONIZATION

A few weeks ago The Herald undertook to deny, upon information in its possession, that Prof. George D. Herron was in any way connected with a new "ideal" community enterprise to be started in New Jersey. That denial was subsequently confirmed and the statement made in this paper that Prof. Herron had protested against the use of his name in connection with the proposed colony. At the same time we also discredited a report that Samuel M. Jones of Toledo was interested in the same colony venture. Since then Mr. Jones, in a letter to the Workers' Call, has given expression to his surprise that that paper in an article entitled "Advocates of Utopia" should have represented him as a believer in and supporter of the colony idea. In this letter he said:

"As for myself, I have nothing more to do with the colony movement than you. I repudiate it in toto as being unscientific and anti-Social."

Further than this Mayor Jones corroborates what The Herald said three weeks ago concerning Prof. Herron:

"I can say positively for Prof. Herron that he has nothing more to do with the affair that his name is connected with than I, and that he has no faith in the colony idea in any form whatever."

MORE PROOF OF PROSPERITY

The advance of 3 cents a gallon in the price of petroleum which the Standard Oil company made last December meant an increased profit on the 900,000 gallons which are annually consumed in the United States of \$2,700,000. At the last regular quarterly meeting of the directors, held for dividend purposes, a quarterly dividend of 20 per cent was declared, equal to 80 per cent annually. The rate paid last year was 33 per cent, and this enormous increase in the dividend rate is doubtless due to the 3-cent increase in price to the consumer.

Here's evidence of prosperity for you. How funny it is! Most of the people who use oil and make possible such enormous advances in dividend rates have the most ignorant and confused ideas about how the great fortunes of individuals are made, never stopping to think that the dividends of the rich are wrung from their own small earnings.

Since 1882 the Standard Oil company has distributed in dividends \$222,250,000. If that doesn't prove that the people are prosperous, what kind of proof, we would like to know, do the pessimists want?

CLASS-CONSCIOUS CAPITALISTS

The striking piano-makers of Chicago are up against a hard row of stumps. At the Kimball works the non-union men now employed are carried by the street cars to a point directly in line with the main entrance. The rule is that street cars stop only at street corners, but the class-conscious crowd who run the street railways and factories play into each other's hands, and the street-railway company accordingly stops its cars where the factory owners want their non-union slaves delivered at the gate. Then the city police are on hand to protect the men while they pass from the cars inside the works. And under the present system of industry these arrangements between capitalist corporations and the safeguarding of their property interests by the police are all right. The union strikers should turn their meeting places into centers of agitation for Socialism. So long as they support with their votes the existing order of things they will get just what is natural and logical in the system. The place to strike is at the ballot-box—for Socialism.

AN ECONOMIC REVOLUTION

It is a matter of special interest at this time to look back to the closing years of the eighteenth century. Just as during the past thirty years we have seen a new system slowly arise and prepare to crush the old; so in the century which closed with the orgies of the French revolution we saw arise a new system, which in time completely overthrew and did away with an older one. As at the end of the eighteenth century "the kingdom of capitalism was come, and Adam Smith was its prophet," so at the end of the nineteenth century "the kingdom of Socialism has come, and Karl Marx is its prophet." Just as economic individualism was Adam Smith's principle, and "Laissez-faire (hands off); away with all restrictions on individual enterprise!" became the war cry of his age, so "Hold off; away with all restrictions on collective enterprise!" is rapidly becoming the war cry of ours. Adam Smith simply expressed the instinctive spirit of his time. Karl Marx, in his writings, instinctively expresses the spirit of ours. Adam Smith voiced the long-delayed, inevitable revolt of individual economic rights against the outgrown restrictions of individualism. Karl Marx in his utterances foreshadows the inevitable revolt of collective economic rights against the outgrown liberties of unlicensed individualism. Today America is teeming with economic literature. The coming revolution will be an economic revolution, pure and simple. Its aim will be the establishment of an economic collectivism, for the captains of industry are here, and the capital is here, and all that any nation can demand is that those industrial leaders shall employ that capital solely to the best interest of the people.

All the great revolutions of history have been economic revolutions. The American revolution was an economic revolution. That monster upheaval of the eighteenth century which deluged France with the blood of its aristocracy was an economic revolution. Says one writer: "The French revolution was an economic revolution. Its aim was the establishment of an economic individualism. With all its blind outbursts, it never forgot this; with all its failures, it did not fail of this. The meaning of that era is summed up in one word—the application of invention and science to industry demanded large capital; capital must be free; the individual must be free in his enterprise with capital. The Third Estate revolution was not in the interest of labor, but of middle-class enterprise against feudal privilege."

J. T. Van Rensselaer.

Another Outrage

We are in possession of information from the Coeur d'Alenes saying that Gov. Steunenberg, in conjunction with the mine operators, have a petition in circulation, to be forwarded to the secretary of war, to continue the troops in that district permanently.

This petition did not meet with the approval of the people of the district, who naturally objected on the ground that such a procedure was unnecessary and was an insult to the people living in the county.

To the governor's surprise, when his deputies took the petition to the miners, even the permit men, who are allowed to work by the governor's permission only, refused to sign it. When this news reached the governor at Boise he immediately shipped the notorious Sinclair to the Coeur d'Alenes with instructions to carry out his orders.

When Sinclair reached Wallace he issued an order that all people who refused to sign the petition should leave the county. He then obtained the names of the men employed at the mines who refused to sign the petition and instantly revoked their permits and had them discharged immediately. Twenty-five men at the Tiger mine at Burke were discharged for refusing to sign, and a larger number at the mines in Mullan and Wardner were discharged on this account. Some of them were afterward told that they could return to their employment if they would sign the petition. This is American freedom with a vengeance.

It is doubtful if such arbitrary acts as this were ever perpetrated upon the people of any country—not even in Russia.

This petition will be sent to the secretary of war, and of course it is very easy to surmise that he will act favorably upon it, for the national administration from the day Gen. Merriam arrived in Idaho has worked hand in hand with the Democratic governor of Idaho in the interest of the Standard Oil trust and the other rich mining corporations.

This act proves conclusively that the military are to be used by the mine operators to reduce wages in the Coeur d'Alenes when the proper time arrives. This precedent, once established, will never be abandoned.

Knowing Gov. Steunenberg as well as we do, we have no hesitation in saying that he is well paid for persecuting the miners and destroying their unions.

There is nothing too vile for this man to descend to; he is utterly unscrupulous in all his acts, and from personal knowledge we can truthfully say that we have never known him to articulate the truth. His sole and only ambition is money, no matter how he obtains it.—The Miners' Journal.

WHAT THE EDITORS SAY

People's Press, Chicago: The schisms in the old parties are paving the way for the downfall of capitalistic oppression and wage-slavery. Now is the time to agitate, teach and spread the gospel of Socialism.

Social Democrat, Haverhill, Mass.: Congressman Moody is a much exploited man in the Massachusetts daily press the past few weeks. His importance is magnified out of all proportion evidently with a desire to impress his constituents in this district with the necessity of keeping such a shining light in congress. Mr. Moody will lose some of his reputed brilliancy when he has to get down on solid earth and meet the Social Democrats in the campaign next fall.

Public Ownership, Erie, Pa.: Mayor Chase, Socialist, of Haverhill, Mass., has forced the gas company of that city to reduce the price from \$1 to 80 cents per thousand. Socialists never yield in their fight for the people's rights, and are able to accomplish some things, even single-handed. A mayor can do much more when supported by councils. The select councilmen elected at this election will hold over into the term of the next mayor of Erie, who will be a Socialist. Do you see? Is a word to the wise sufficient?

Appeal to Reason, Girard, Kan.: There is a general advance in prices, which is pointed to as one of the evidences of prosperity. And it does mean that the few who get the advance are prospering. There is one great corporation, however, that has not advanced its charges. Postage stamps remain at the same old figure and the employees are the best paid, most respected, and the company is cutting down its deficit every year, in spite of the robbery by the gentlemen railroad managers. This is the difference between private robbery and public business.

The Journal, Brockton, Mass.: What a howl there would be in England by the governing capitalists if it were proposed to spend \$5,000,000 a week in saving the lives of the starving poor of India! yet they not only assent but urge on the dreadful work in South Africa because of their greed of gold. The capitalists of all lands are class conscious. They know no patriotism, race or creed when there is profit to be squeezed out of the sweat of the workers. Their actions are a perpetual invitation to the workmen of all countries to unite, loose their chains and secure economic justice.

The Social Forum, Chicago: The newest thing in the war against trusts is that the Illinois statute against trusts, which is supposed to have taken effect July 1, 1893, has been usked out of existence by the decree of Judge C. C. Kohlsaat of the United States Circuit court at Chicago, on the familiar ground that the act is "unconstitutional" and is "class legislation," which are two trite euphemisms for the real fact that all acts which are aimed against the regnant trusts, combined and money magnates are "unconstitutional" whenever it becomes necessary to declare them so. The only "class legislation" which is found illegal is that directed against the capitalist class.

Justice, London, England: Although in this country we are congratulating ourselves on the continuance of good trade and industrial activity, there are not wanting signs that this period of prosperity is nearing its end. It is curious how people forget past crises and depressions and how readily they persuade themselves that a period of prosperity has "come to stay," and that now gluts and bad trade are forever things of the past. Economic history teaches us that any such rosy hopes are only vain dreams, so long as the competitive system of production and distribution endures, and it is precisely at the moment when commercial prosperity is at its height, when trade is most brisk and industry is most flourishing, that reaction and depression are most to be feared.

Citizen and Country, Toronto, Canada: "There has never been a war so barren of plausible justification. There has never been a war so dangerous to the prestige of Great Britain. So sure as the war goes on, so sure does the British empire go under."

This is the awful prediction of Kier Hardie, a man chosen by British electors to represent them in the British house of commons.

We do not sanction every article we publish in this paper, but it is well to know the opinions of leaders. What we say in this matter is that it is safer for Britain to retrace her steps and acknowledge her error than to go ahead and conquer the Boers.

We fear for the future, but we dare not harbor so positive a thought as that expressed by Kier Hardie, the most popular labor leader in England.

ANOTHER GOOD WEEK FOR ORGANIZATION

Thirteen is a lucky number—at least, when organization of branches of the Social Democratic party is concerned. Last week that was the number of new branches instituted throughout the country, and again this week we have to report not as large a list, but one that will be very gratifying to our thousands of readers who are watching the unprecedented growth of Socialism in the United States under the banner of this twenty-months-old party. This week New York takes the lead with two good branches; Maryland has one, and the rest are credited to the west. The latter section is rapidly coming to the S. D. P., and the signs of the times are propitious for great activity during the spring and summer months. National Secretary Debs is devoting a large share of his time every day to answering communications and furnishing information to those who in their home communities are about ready for affiliation with the Social Democratic party. A list of the new branches for the week follows:

ASPEN, COLO.

Chairman, M. V. Colyer; vice-chairman, R. K. Sprinkle; secretary and treasurer, A. E. McClausland; organizer, James Sanborn.

BALTIMORE, MD.

Chairman, L. Rosenfeld; secretary, H. Sachs; treasurer, H. Abrahamson; organizer, D. Paulson.

PLATTSMOUTH, NEB.

Chairman, B. O. Hadley; vice-chairman, Will Howland; secretary, Jacob Jacobsen; treasurer, Loren Leiner; organizer, Herman Streitwieser.

PATCHOGUE, N. Y.

Chairman, H. W. Pain; vice-chairman, A. R. Pettis, M. D.; secretary, V. S. Worth; treasurer, C. E. Whitehouse; organizer, Romain Weeks.

BRONX BOROUGH, N. Y.

Chairman, John Ryan; vice-chairman, William Hayes; secretary, E. Spranger; treasurer, J. H. Howe; organizer, William Sanger.

PENDLETON, ORE.

Chairman, J. L. Vaughan; vice-chairman, G. M. Brown; secretary, H. E. Oakes; treasurer, W. W. Boothby; organizer, W. C. Burgess.

CLEBURNE, TEX.

Chairman, Karl Feige; vice-chairman, Ch. Schlieper; secretary, E. H. Strack; treasurer, John Fox; organizer, Eugene Zeitler.

SHEPOYGAN, WIS.

Chairman, Otto Zeigler; vice-chairman, Ed E. Sommer; secretary, Edward Mohr; treasurer, Charles Grabowsky; organizer, Aug. L. Mohr.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Branch No. 33, Whitman, Mass., will give an entertainment and lecture Feb. 22 at the town hall.

Organizer George Finger of New York is greatly encouraged with the outlook for organization.

Three new branches have been organized in New York city in three weeks. The city central committee is active.

The West Side branch, New York, will have Comrade William Butcher for speaker on the 18th. His subject is "Trusts."

Comrade Howard A. Gibbs of Worcester addressed a large meeting at Socialist hall, Brockton, Mass., Sunday evening, Feb. 4.

Meetings of the new branch in the Borough of Bronx, New York, will be held at Webster hall, One Hundred and Fortieth street and Third avenue.

The West Side and Twenty-fourth assembly district organizations in New York have decided to send a joint delegate to the Indianapolis convention.

This week Comrade Eugene Debs has been lecturing in Georgia, North Carolina and Kentucky. Tomorrow, Feb. 18, he fills an engagement at Burlington, Iowa.

Branch No. 5, Lynn, Mass., with a new set of officers, is having fine meetings and increasing its membership. W. H. Hitchcock is the new chairman and Harry Gotimer secretary.

Representative MacCartney's bill to have the name of the party printed on the official ballot of Massachusetts instead of as "Democratic Social," as heretofore, has been defeated.

Branch No. 42, at Holbrook, Mass., is arranging for a grand rally, with Comrades Coulter and MacCartney for speakers and the Brockton band to entertain the occasion with music.

The officers of the new branch at Mendon, Mass., are: Horace S. Coleman, chairman; Florence Driscoll, vice-chairman; William E. Dixon, secretary; Charles A. Johnson, treasurer; Nathan F. Towne, organizer.

The comrades at North Abingdon, Mass., started their campaign at a recent town meeting by carrying the day for the Australian ballot at the spring election against the combined opposition of Republicans and Democrats.

A mass meeting under the auspices of the new branch in Bronx borough will be held at Webster hall, One Hundred and Fortieth street and Third avenue, Friday evening, Feb. 23. Comrades Phillips and Barondess will speak.

Comrade A. A. Noe of Delaware, Ohio, writes to say that the local branch recently organized there is flourishing. He declares that the fact that a branch can be maintained in so conservative a place as Delaware is proof that it can be done in any old town in the country, and urges the comrades to increased activity. The comrades of Branch 14 of Missouri, at Popular Bluff, have nominated candidates for the local election in April as follows: Councilmen—First ward, A. C. Ford; third ward, George Clemons; fourth ward, George Massingham, Jr. For school directors—Charles Hinrichs and R. L. Hassler.

Comrade C. Lipscomb is co-operating effectively with the active forces for Social Democracy in Missouri. Wherever he speaks he clearly emphasizes the fact that the S. D. P. is not a party of palliatives and middle-class reforms, but a revolutionary party, aiming at political supremacy to inaugurate social ownership of all productive capital.

A congressional committee has been organized at Brockton, with officers as follows: Mayor Charles H. Coulter of Brockton, chairman; Frank Thompson of Plymouth, first vice-president; A. H. Dennett of Middleboro, second vice-president; Charles E. Lowell of Whitman, secretary; G. A. Monette of Brockton, financial secretary, and John Alexander of East Bridgewater, treasurer.

The following amounts contributed to the Bohemian paper are acknowledged by our Bohemian comrades: Dance given by Branch No. 2, Chicago, \$27.25; from sale of books presented by Dr. Greer, \$1; Branch No. 12, New Bedford, Mass., \$1.10; Bicycle union No. 32, Chicago, \$3; Comrade Mulac, Vanderbil, Pa., \$2; Comrade Mudra, Chicago, \$2; "Policaft," 50 cents; circulation, \$9.50.

The Granite Falls (Minn.) branch would like to correspond with branch secretaries elsewhere as to how they carry on their work for the cause. This branch was organized Jan. 10 with eleven members; at its third meeting the number had increased to twenty-six, and in a short time it will be doubled. The comrades are all active and effective use is being made of literature. The secretary is C. J. Weaver.

Dear Comrade: The Eleventh District Socialist club of Cleveland will hold its councilmanic convention Monday evening, Feb. 19, in Painter's hall, 945 Clark avenue. All members of the S. L. P. and the S. D. P. and the voters who at the last election voted the Socialist ticket, and those who intend to vote with us, are invited to be present to nominate a candidate for the city council.

Let us show the world that we can unite into one grand party of the laboring class to fight for its rights. Ed Munger, Chairman; Leo Weingarten, Secretary.

Boston has given the municipalization of the city printing plant a thorough trial, and it suits Typographical Union No. 13 so well that at its last meeting a unanimous vote was given in favor of a petition to the legislature of Massachusetts for a joint special committee to investigate the desirability of a state printing office. The committee appointed by President Metcalf was a radical one and thoroughly in sympathy with the project. As the contract expires next year with the Wright & Potter Printing company, it comes within the bounds of reasonable expectation that the legislature will at least very seriously consider the matter. Comrade George G. Cutting is chairman of the committee.

To Our Connecticut Readers

All unattached Socialists in the state of Connecticut are requested to write Louis Schlaif, 26 Spring street, Rockville, for information concerning the organization of branches.

North Dakota Socialists

Socialists residing in North Dakota and desiring to organize for effective propaganda work in that state are requested to correspond with Math. Eidsness, Tower, N. D.

To Our Washington Readers

Comrade D. Burgess of New Whatcom, Wash., has been selected as organizer for the state and is prepared to assist the Socialists of Washington in organizing branches of the S. D. P. Correspondence addressed to him will receive prompt attention.

Cincinnati Municipal Campaign

Social Democrats at Cincinnati have squared themselves for the coming municipal election. At a well-attended and enthusiastic meeting John H. Hewitt, Robert J. Waite, Seymour G. Mead and Hugh Crumley were entered as candidates for the mayoralty. Several ballots were taken before Mr. Waite emerged as the winner. He was called on to make a speech, but declined, contenting himself with asking the assistance of his associates in taking care of the unenlightened among the populace should he happen to be elected.

Hugh Crumley and John Hewitt were selected as the candidates for the B. of C. A.

D. T. Hackett was put up for corporation counsel by acclamation.

Albert Corbin was named for police court judge by acclamation, and Walter R. Ingram beat out William Kuhnell

and Joseph Reverman for police clerk. Fred Hammel was chosen for city auditor in a close contest with S. G. Mead.

For city treasurer A. E. Schuttenheim was an easy winner.

John Alexander was nominated for justice of the peace and Joseph Reverman for constable.

It was decided to leave the selection of candidates for the boards of education and legislation to the campaign committee, which will talk matters over with the party men in each of the several wards before filling out the ticket.

The campaign committee was chosen by selecting S. G. Mead, A. Haas, A. Bury, R. Biederman and Andreas Lotz, and general business was begun in earnest by levying an assessment at once on all who were present. Nearly every one in the room gave a dollar, half or quarter, according to his means and interest.

The committee is to organize the work in the several wards at once, and an effort will be made to have good speakers address the people in the party's cause.

Mr. Waite, the candidate for mayor, is president of the local Potters' union. He and the others are all new men, politically.

An Important Book

Charles H. Kerr & Co. have in the press the admirable work by Frederick Engels, "Socialism: Utopia to Science." There is probably nothing better than this to put into the hands of those who have read "Merrie England" and books of that class. It is the Aveling translation and is printed in cloth at 30 cents; paper cover, 10 cents. It is a work that we trust will have a large sale among members of the organization. Orders filled from this office.

Municipalism

The subject of municipal ownership of street railways, lighting plants, water works, etc., is specially and elaborately treated in the issue of the Appeal to Reason for Feb. 17. Great pains have been taken and much expense incurred to make this municipal ownership edition exceptionally interesting and valuable. It is expected that the edition will be the largest the Appeal office has yet printed. Parties wishing to aid in giving this number of the Appeal the widest possible circulation should get in their orders at once to Girard, Kan.

Comrade Henry P. Lenhardt

The cause of Socialism lost a devoted advocate and loyal supporter in the recent death of Comrade Henry Paul Lenhardt, at New Haven, Conn. As an active worker for the social revolution he never tired, and was known as a man who for years did all he could to the end that his class might be brought to realize, as he did, the hopelessness of their condition under capitalist production. He gave of his time and means generously without thought of reward, and his sincerity of purpose and singleness of aim, were never doubted by those who knew him best.

Comrade Lenhardt died after an illness of ten months, due to intestinal cancer, leaving a widow and three children and a large circle of friends and comrades to mourn his loss.

Encouraging Signs

The meeting held by the central branch of St. Louis on Feb. 4 was the best business meeting in point of attendance that Social Democrats of this city have ever held. Aschenbroedel hall was well filled, and the members were enthusiastic. Putnam and Hoehn were elected delegates to the national convention. Four new members were added to the roll. The general public is beginning to manifest an unusual interest in the party, and even our business meetings are attended by many strangers. Our proposed concentration on the Ninth ward is drawing many hitherto unattached Socialists into our ranks. Everything is favorable, and we will put up a strong, clear-cut fight for Socialism this year. The next central branch meeting will be held at 604 Market street Sunday afternoon, Feb. 18.

Social Democrats of Poplar Bluff, Mo., have nominated a city ticket, as follows: Aldermen—First ward, A. C. Ford; Third ward, George Clemons; Fourth ward, George Massingham, Jr. School directors—R. L. Hassler and Charles Hinrichs, Sr. Poplar Bluff has about 2,500 inhabitants, and the Social Democratic vote is sure to cause some disturbance.

Charlie Martin to the Antis

M. L. Lockwood, Chairman; Franklin H. Wentworth, Secretary, National Anti-Trust Conference, Chicago, Ill.—Gentlemen: During the past few weeks I have received several packages of printed matter and circular letters from your hands, and this morning I received another batch, accompanied by the following circular letter dated Jan. 8, 1900—all minus the union label:

"My Dear Sir: Understanding you to be in thorough sympathy with the call for the anti-trust conference to be held in this city Feb. 12, 13 and 14 next, at a meeting of the executive committee on the 6th inst. you were appointed one of the delegates to the conference. You are earnestly invited and urged to attend. Will you kindly indicate by re-

turn mail your acceptance of the appointment and your intention of attending the conference, so that the committee may make such arrangements for your ticket and admission to the meetings of the conference and to the Auditorium as will avoid all confusion at that time."

LOCAL BRANCHES

Notices of Branch Meetings Inserted for 25 Cents per Month

CALIFORNIA

Liberty Branch, San Francisco, holds public meetings every Sunday and Wednesday evenings, commencing at 8. Admissions free. Educational meetings (for members) every Tuesday evening. Sociology, Economics, Public Speaking, etc.

Business meetings (for members) every Thursday evening. Membership, with advantage of Educational and Social Democratic Herald free to each member, 25 cents per month.

To the secretary, John C. Wesley, 117 Turk street.

Branch No. 1, Los Angeles, meets every Sunday afternoon at 8 o'clock at Woodman's Hall, 125 Spring St. J. Franc, 700 Dayton Ave., Secretary.

CONNECTICUT

The Cockett State Committee meets the last Sunday of each month at Thro Hall, Rockville, L. Schlaf, Secretary.

Branch No. 3, New Haven, meets every Tuesday evening, at 198 State St., at 8 p.m. Cornelius Mahony, Secretary, 165 Frank St.

Branch No. 4, Rockville, Conn., meets first and third Thursdays at Turn Hall meeting room, Village street, Secretary, Richard Niederwerfer, Box 760.

MISSOURI

The City Central agitation Committee of Greater New York and vicinity meets first and third Tuesdays of every month in Wilcox's Hall, 85 E. 4th St. Elizabeth H. Thomas, Secretary.

East Side Branch, No. 1, New York, meets every first and third Thursday at 12 Clinton St. A. Ouyer, Secretary, 165 Suffol St.

Branch No. 3, 24th Assembly District, meets second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 221 E. 60th St.

Branch No. 4, West Side Branch, New York, meets second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at headquarters, 129 W. 29th St. Elizabeth H. Thomas, Secretary.

NEW YORK

The City Central agitation Committee of Greater New York and vicinity meets first and third Tuesdays of every month in Wilcox's Hall, 85 E. 4th St. Elizabeth H. Thomas, Secretary.

Branch No. 1, Los Angeles, meets every Sunday afternoon at 8 o'clock at Woodman's Hall, 125 Spring St. J. Franc, 700 Dayton Ave., Secretary.

CONNECTICUT

Branch No. 1, Chicago, meets every Wednesday at Dr. J. H. Greer's office, 52 Dearborn St.

Branch No. 2 (Bohemian), Chicago, meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at Rutledge St. 21 Rutledge St. Meet every third Thursday at 8:15 sharp. All persons interested are invited to attend these meetings and co-operate in organizing local branches in every district in the city. Wm. Butcher, Secretary, 251 Rutledge St.

Branch No. 3, Chicago, meets first and third Thursdays at Turn Hall meeting room, Village street, Secretary, Richard Niederwerfer, Box 760.

INDIANA

Branch No. 1, Indianapolis, meets every Sunday afternoon at 8 o'clock at Reichwein's Hall, corner Market and Noble Sts.

KENTUCKY

Branch No. 2, Covington, meets first and third Wednesdays and second and fourth Sundays of each month. All agitation meetings except last one to month. Good speakers. Secretary, F. G. Stomph, 201 8th St.

MARYLAND

Branch No. 1, Baltimore, meets every Sunday at 8 p.m. at Carpenter's Hall, 550 E. Baltimore St. Public invited.

Branch No. 2, Baltimore, meets every Monday at 8 p.m. at 311 W. German St. Frank Mareck, Secretary, 1908 N. Gay St.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts State Committee meets the first Saturday of each month at 724 Washington St., Boston. All dues and money intended for the State Committee should be sent to the financial secretary, A. McDowell, 10 W. Spring St., Boston. All other correspondence should be addressed to the Corresponding Secretary, Margaret Hale, 5 Glenwood St., Roxbury.

Branch

BAY STATE BUDGET

The Massachusetts state committee of the S. D. P. met in Boston, Saturday, Feb. 3. Communications and reports were received from Springfield, Marlboro and Providence, R. I., and action taken looking toward getting the movement started in those places.

The present plan of supplying speakers through the state secretary is found to entail too much work upon that official. During a campaign some such plan is necessary, and works to perfection, where no engagements are made except in that way; but where the secretary makes some, and the speakers make others, there is bound to be confusion. It was therefore decided that branches wishing the services of speakers should, for the present at least, communicate with the speakers direct. Speakers are requested, however, in case they may unexpectedly find themselves unable to fill any engagement made, to notify the secretary, who is in a better position than the branches are to find a substitute on short notice, and will always endeavor to do so.

With a view to establishing a more systematic organization of the branches in the state, and greater harmony of working, the following rule was adopted upon motion of the secretary:

On or before the 10th day of January, April, July and October, in each year, the secretary of each branch shall make a quarterly report to the secretary of the state committee, giving names of officers, number of members in good standing, locally and nationally; number of new members admitted during the quarter, date of regular meetings, number of agitation meetings per month, and what literature is being used for distribution.

As the state committee is an executive, and not a legislative body, and is required by a vote of our first state convention to put into practice the principle of the initiative and referendum in the relations between itself and the branches, the above proposition is hereby submitted to referendum vote. The branches are requested to take action upon its adoption, and report to the secretary of the state committee.

On motion of Comrade Chase, the state secretary's name was added to the board of state organizers, she having acted as organizer, practically, though not nominally, since the inception of the party. The board of organizers now consists of eight members—viz., Porter, Chase, Carey, Lowell, Putney, Barr, MacCartney, Gibbs and Haile. To secure uniformity of organization, and to protect our party as much as possible against the formation of branches by professional politicians for their own purposes, it is the purpose and intention of the state committee that some one of these organizers should be present whenever a new branch is organized.

At the previous meeting it had been decided, inasmuch as the work of the state committee has increased to such an extent that it is impossible for any person to do it justice while at the same time following a daily occupation, that steps should be taken to raise a fund to secure the whole time of a secretary. This motion was introduced and is being pushed by some comrades who are generous enough to believe that it would be for the advantage of the movement if Comrade Haile's whole time could be devoted to the work of organizing the state. A committee of ways and means was duly appointed and reported at this meeting that a number of individual members had pledged certain sums per month, and that a communication would be sent to various branches asking what, if anything, they would pledge for this purpose. According to their calculation, a sufficient amount could be raised. The committee recommended that the secretary should assume the permanent office about the middle of February. But the matter is now postponed for a while. The secretary is firmly convinced that the best and most effective work for any cause is voluntary work, and that it is only when there is absolutely no other way out of it that such an office should be created. By throwing the burden of supplying speakers on to the branch secretaries, and subdividing some of the other work, which is more or less routine work, the secretary has put herself in a position to have more time to devote to the work of organizing and looking after the needs of the fifty branches, individually and collectively. This will make it possible to longer postpone the evil day of paid officials. Of course, this is not a position that would be sought for the money there is in it. In fact, any one who is really capable of filling it as it ought to be filled must have certain ability, which, if exerted along other lines, would naturally bring him more remuneration than a working-class organization can afford to pay for many a day. At the same time, the very approach of a system of salaried offices in our party should be warded off as long as possible.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb. 24, instead of on the regular meeting night—the first Saturday in the month. Will the comrades please bear this in mind—Feb. 24?

Margaret Haile, Secretary.

PROPAGANDA FUND

"Appeal to Reason". Kansas \$1.00
E. V. Debs Indiana 50
Branch No. 9, Milwaukee Wisconsin 25
"Class Struggle" Illinois 50

Debs in Florida

The reception given to Eugene V. Debs in Florida was a remarkable public manifestation of the growing regard in which he is held by the people. At Tampa and Jacksonville thousands of people heard him and the press gave a great deal of editorial space to the man and his views. From these comments the following extracts are taken:

Tampa Tribune: "Frank, fervent, positive, with a voice that carries conviction, sometimes temporary, sometimes permanent, Eugene V. Debs instructed and entertained a Tampa audience for two hours in the open air last night. Debs was born a leader, in one capacity or another, and circumstances are responsible for the direction given to his leadership. If chance had not made him a labor leader, it would have made him a political leader, a financial leader, a literary leader, or placed him in the front rank of some other army of public effort. The loss of these others is the gain of labor, and organized labor is everywhere to be congratulated upon that dispensation of human opportunity which designated him to its service."

Tampa Times: "The lecture by the noted labor leader, Eugene V. Debs, delivered here last night, was probably the finest, most effective and thoroughly satisfactory effort of its character ever presented to a Tampa audience. Every promise and every expectation was fully realized. Mr. Debs is justly entitled to his high reputation and the esteem in which he is held by the working people throughout the country, whose cause he so ably champions. A dozen men like Debs traveling through the country and pleading with the people would soon bring about a change in the existing conditions."

Tampa Herald: "The speech of Eugene V. Debs last night is the universal topic of discussion in Tampa today. It made a powerful impression, because it was new to the people who heard it and because it was beautifully delivered. Few men have such a fluent command of language; still fewer can pour out so smooth and persuasive a torrent of words. It is a pleasure to listen to him. To an extent and relatively he speaks the truth, and to many it seems that he speaks the whole truth. * * * And for all his limitations, Debs is an able worker in a good cause. Men are better for having heard him. They would be still better for hearing him."

The above are the principal daily newspapers of Tampa, and all agree that Comrade Debs spoke to nearly 4,000 people.

THE OIL IN THE LAMP

The clock on the mantel pealed forth the dismal hour of midnight. The oil in the lamp had burned low and the flame flickered and sputtered in a vain attempt to speak to its solitary companion. "Sizzle, sizzle! Sputter, sputter, sputter! Put, put, put, put!" it said, leaping to the top of the broken chimney to lend emphasis to its otherwise obscure remarks.

With a nervous jerk the man threw down his pen and sat staring into the restless flame. Its dialect was unintelligible to him, but it finally succeeded in conveying its interesting story through the channel of inspiration.

"Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin," it began. "For every drop of ink that flows from the reformer's pen, ten times its weight in blood is consumed by the fires that glow within him. Every thought that tends to elevate and lighten the burdens of man is burned into the tables of progress by the inward shedding of its author's blood. The blood expended in the production of literature alone, in printed matter and rejected manuscript, of which the latter forms by far the greater part, would produce the Biblical sea that reaches to the horse's bridle. Blood! blood! Truly there is no remission of sin without the shedding of blood."

"I know, I know," answered the man, rising to his feet and pacing slowly to and fro across the room. "But tell me, I implore you, when this shedding of blood is to be rewarded by victory."

"If thou wouldest be perfect, sell that thou hast and follow me," came the answer. "Perfection can only be gained by selling what we have and following the Master; and if each one should thus dispose of his riches, since the command to sell also implies the presence of a buyer, it is not reasonable—nay, does it not absolutely follow—that the government (the people) is the buyer referred to? Otherwise, should all desire to become perfect (the reasonable inference of the Master's statements), to whom would they transfer their property?

"He who would lose his life (his individual opportunities for amassing great wealth) shall gain it, and he who would hold to his life (his individual opportunities for amassing great and useless wealth) shall lose it." Co-operation, or collective ownership of the means of production and distribution, will go far toward bringing about the results for which we have so earnestly prayed. And when oceans more of the martyrs' blood has been dried in the veins of the apostles of peace, then, indeed, will man have learned that, 'Sell all ye have and follow me,' was uttered by the greatest statesman the world has ever known."

"Kelpie."

THE PLATFORM

The Social Democratic Party of America declares that life, liberty and happiness for every man, woman and child are conditioned upon equal political and economic rights.

That private ownership of the means of production and distribution of wealth has caused conflict between the small possessing class of capitalists or exploiters of the labor force of others and the ever-increasing large dispossessed class of wage-workers, who are deprived of the socially-eaten share of their product.

That capitalism, the private ownership of the means of production, is responsible for the insecurity of subsistence, the poverty, misery and degradation of the ever-growing majority of our people.

That the same economic forces which have produced and now intensify the capitalist system, will compel the adoption of Socialism, the collective ownership of the means of production for the common good and welfare, or result in the destruction of civilization.

That the trade union movement and independent political action are the chief emancipating factors of the working class, the one representing its economic, the other its political wing, and that both must co-operate to abolish the capitalist system of production and distribution.

Therefore, the Social Democratic Party of America declares its object to be the establishment of a system of co-operative production and distribution through the restoration to the people of all the means of production and distribution, to be administered by organized society in the interest of the whole people, and the complete emancipation of society from the domination of capital.

The wage-workers and all those in sympathy with their historical mission to realize a higher civilization should sever connection with all capitalist and reform parties and unite with the Social Democratic Party of America.

The control of political power by the Social Democratic Party will guarantee the abolition of capital and of all class rule.

The solidarity of labor connecting us with millions of class-conscious fellow-workers throughout the civilized world will lead to international Socialism, the brotherhood of man.

As steps in this direction, we make the following demands:

1. Reduction of our anticipated Federal Constitution, in order to remove the obstacles to full and complete control of government by all the people, irrespective of sex.

2. The public ownership of all industries controlled by monopolies, trusts and combines.

3. The public ownership of all railroads, telegraph, telephone, all means of transportation, communication, water-works, gas and electric plants, and other public utilities.

4. The public ownership of all gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, coal and all other mines: above all oil and gas wells.

5. Reduction of the hours of labor in proportion to the increasing facilities of production.

6. The inauguration of a system of public works and employment funds for the employment of the unemployed, the public credit to be utilized for that purpose.

7. All useful inventions to be free to all, the inventor to be remunerated by the public.

8. Labor legislation to be made national, instead of local and international where possible.

9. National insurance of working people against accidents, lack of employment and old age.

10. Equal civil and political rights for men and women, and the abolition of all laws discriminating against women.

11. The adoption of the initiative and referendum by voters.

12. Abolition of war as far as the United States are concerned and the introduction of international arbitration instead.

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CALL TO ACTION

ORGANIZE FOR 1900

There are few communities in this country today with-out from sea to sea a dozen Socialists who are not affiliated with a Socialist organization. At the last State election in Missouri votes were cast for the candidates of the Social Democratic Party in nearly every county in the State.

In almost every community a thoroughly wide-awake and earnest Socialist, with a clear head, could in one week effect the organization of a Branch of the Social Democratic Party.

WHAT THEY CAN DO

The Declaration of Principles and Political Demands of this party will be found in this paper; read it and you will see that the party is a straight, uncompromising Socialist party.

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DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION

trolled by an individual nor by any set of individuals short of its entire membership through the referendum.

The year 1900 will be one of great and far-reaching importance to the people and especially to the intelligent wealth-producing people of the United States; the latter have surely by this time begun to see the futility of any longer giving support to capitalist parties.

Socialists should have as their main object in 1900 the polling of every vote possible for straight and uncompromising Socialism, and to do this the co-operation of every attached Socialist in the work of organization, where he lives, is necessary.

The Social Democratic Party is now organized in more than half the States; it co-exists of Local Branches, State Unions and a National Council. A Local Branch may be organized with five members.

It will nominate candidates for President and Vice-President next March.

Full instructions and all necessary supplies for organizing Local Branches may be obtained from the National Secretary, Theodore Debs, 126 Washington St., Chicago, Illinois.

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The following is a list of comrades who have agreed, in response to the appeal of the National Executive Board, to contribute monthly for one year to the national fund. Other names will be added as they are received.

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